GRIDCO. State Governments of the Region has been asked to strengthen their sub-transmission and distribution system.

Supply of power on concessional rates to industries

662. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power supply on concessional rates to 25 industries was withdrawn as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 15th January, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for restoring the subsidised supply with retrospective effect;

(c) the net loss to State Electricity Boards on this account; and

(d) the steps taken to mitigate the losses of State Electricity Boards affected by restoration of concessional supply to industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the hardship faced by export-oriented units the supply was restored at NTPC tariff plus wheeling charges to 100% Export-oriented Ferro Alloy Units or units with furnaces totally earmarked for export purposes where electricity bill account for 35% for more of their cost of production to enable them to compete in the international market. The arrangement is subject to a six-monthly review.

(c) and (d) As the supply of power is out of unallocated Central share on actual cost basis including wheeling charges there is no loss suffered by State Electricity Boards.

National Action Plan in the Power Sector

663. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national action plan has been adopted in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve generation, transmission and distribution of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Common Minimum National Action Plan, *inter-alia,* includes setting up of Central and State Regulatory Commissions, rationalisation of retail tariffs, private sector participations, review of the role of Central Agencies, emphasis on hydro power, improvement of physical parameters etc. In accordance with the Action Plan, Government has initiated steps to bring about improvement in the performance of existing plants, addition of capacity, promotion of private participation in generation, transmission and distribution and facilitating reforms and restructuring of State Electricity Boards.

Power Generation Capacity in the Thermal, Hydel and Atomic Sectors

664. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity in the country in the thermal, hydel and atomic sectors, respectively;

(b) the actual power production in each of these sectors during 199